

Theeves falling out, True- men come by their Goods: OR, The Belman wanted a Clapper.

A Peale of new Villanies rung out: The sound being Muscicall
to all Gentlemen, Lawyers, Farmers, and all sorts of
people that come vp to the Tearme: Shewing that
the Villanies of leawd Women,
excell those of Men.

Goe not by mee, but Buy mee; and get by mee.

by R. G.



Imprinted at London for T. G. and are to be sold by
R. Marchant at the Crosse in Pauls Church-yard, 1615. 4

Thecues falling out Time men come by their Goods: OR The Belman vsuued a Clabber.

A Fable of new Villanies sung out: The following Musicall
 to all Gentlemen, Lawyers, Farmers, and all sort of
 people that come up to the Teme: shewing
 the Villanies of lewd Women
 excellently of Mien
 Can not by mee, but by mee, and yet by mee.



Printed at London for T. D. and are to be sold by
 A. M. under the Great in Pauls Church-yard, 1671.



To all Gentlemen,

Marchants Apprenti-

ses, and Countrey Farmers,

health.



Ewes and greene Bushes at Taverns

new let vs; every man hath his Penny

to spend at a Pint in the one, and every

man his Eare open to receive the sound

of the other. It is the language which

at first meetings is vsed in all Countries,

What Newes? In Court, tis the Mor-

ninges Salutations; and Noones table-

talke; by Night it is stale. In Cities, tis more common, then,

What doe you lacke? And in the Countrey, Whistling at Plough

is not of greater Antiquitie. Walk the middle Ile in *Pauls*,

and Gentlemens teeth walke not faster so Ordinaries, then

there a whole day together, about inquiring after *Newes*.

Newes then, beinge *Frill* that's caught every day, and yet a

Meate for euery mans Table. I thinke it not amisse to inuite

all men to a Feast of such *Newes*, as haue of late come in shoales

into my Net. I will not hold a Bird in a Cage to sing strange

Notes to my selfe, but let her forth to delight others: And

albeit (about some two or three yeares past) the vgly faces of

THE EPISTLE.

diners dambde abuses, were set naked upon euery Post, their Vizards being head off. both by *Light-homes* and *Candle-lights*, and by the *Bellmen of London*: Yet Villaine when it runnes to seed, being of all other Graines the most fruitfull and luxuriant, the Candlelight was burnt to a Smoke, and the *Bellman* fast asleepe before these Monsters which now are hatcht forth, creeped out of their Denes.

In *Westminster*, the *Strand*, *Bolsworde*, and the chiefe places of resorts about *London*, doe they euery day build their Nests, euery howe crissie, and in *Tearne* they especially flatter they abroad in flocks: You shall know them by their Feathers. And because for the most part they flye in payres, (a Cocke and a Henne together), Behold a couple newly alighted on the *Pearch*: a *Hee-Foyst*, and a *Shee-Foyst*: What they chirrup out, their owne Voyces can best deliuer, and therefore listen to them. Suppose you heare the first of them setting forth a throte thus.

Farwell.

R. G.

Alacke; by Night it is faine. In
What wee see takes And in the
is not of greater And in the
and Gentlemen seeke
there a whole day
You then being
Mere for euery man
all men to a Feall of such
into my Net. I will not hold
None to my selfe, but for her
about (about some two or three
A

A Disputation betweene

a Hee-Foyst, and a Shee-Foyst



Steph. And Kato, tell me, what Newes about your

Westminster Building, that you looke to

with, your cheere, & cheerefull countenance

your face, and your body, as I perceiue by your

countenance, that you are now late growne

to labourable, & to your cheerefull countenance

that you are now late growne, & to your cheerefull

countenance, that you are now late growne, & to your

cheerefull countenance, that you are now late growne, & to your

cheerefull countenance, that you are now late growne, & to your

cheerefull countenance, that you are now late growne, & to your

his Dounge, & to leaue him selfe as much Crooked, as thou hadst good

conditions, & when he shall be more of a piece, pennell, & the whole

How is it that it all enoy, goes the world on wheels, that you are

now in the world, & you are now in the world, & you are now in the world

How is it that it all enoy, goes the world on wheels, that you are

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How is it that it all enoy, goes the world on wheels, that you are

now in the world, & you are now in the world, & you are now in the world

True men come by their goods

the blow, so it not possible for vs. to pinch him ere he passe. See that is
 most chary of his Crowne abroad, & will cry, Maister the Conny-catch-
 ers, will not be affraide to drinke a pint of wine with a pretty wench, A Trull with a Gull.
 and perhaps goe to a strutting house to ferry out our for his purpose,
 then with what cunning he can seeke the simple fop, with what false
 words, sweete kisses, looser lyes, as if at that instant we fell in love
 with him, that we neuer saw before: if we meete him in the evening in
 the street, if the fanner, or other whatsoeuer, be not so forward as to
 motion some excuse to vs, we straight insinuate into his company,
 and claime acquaintance of him by some meanes or other, and if his
 minde be let for lust, & the Diuell stir him on to pinch him, its wile
 some dishonest wanton, then let him looke to his purse; for if he doe
 but kisse me in the street, He haue his purse for a farewell, although
 he neuer commit any other act at all. I speake not this only by my
 selfe Stephen, for there be a hundred in London more cunning then
 my selfe in this kind of Conny-catching. But if he come into a house
 then let our trade alone to her in upon him, for first we saue our selues a
 hunger, for the height of the house, although our bellies were neuer
 so full, and we doubt the good chamber, or Bayne, We come forth
 like a sober woman, and let a drop of Cider on the Table, and then Tricks of
bawdes.
 still chaperon them, although they are not able, yet I make haue
 of all, and let him be sure every wile is well sound, for her Gall pay
 for a dipping wye that rest in the water four pence, or one of the
 strutting houses, what pence, with what is valiant it be not deare
 bought, and yet he must come a fop & a wench, and when
 for him to his purse, I note the pinching of it well, and ere
 we part, that wench goen hard if I stop him out of all that hee hath,
 and then suppose she would, that he misse it, and I so simple acquies-
 ce, & badly provide, that I haue not a friend to help with a few ter-
 rible oaths & countenances, as if he were the pious of London
 that our bare women in the Low-country Warren, will force him
 quite out of his money, and make him walke like a woodcocke home
 with by weeping crosses, and sad repentance with all the Crowns
 in his purse. Now say you to this Stephen, whether are women
 fopps in inferior copon in infinite countenance of her
 Step, & therefore well to goe you that you take her too
 but wench, although you be truly and wisely often, your bloods are not
 so big of ours.

Theeues falling out,

Kate. Oh but note the subject of our disputation, and that is this, which are more subtil and dangerous to the Common-wealth, and to that I argue.

Seep. I can bestow me, but you reason quaintly, yet will I prove your wittes are not so ripe as ours; for so ready to reach into the subtilties of kinde confusion; and though you appropriate to your selfe the excellencie of Cony-catching, and that you see it with mine eye then we men do, because of your painted flatteries and sugred words, that you sloppily rethorically like wittes to catch fooles, yet will I manifest with a merry instance, a fence none by a fop, that exceeds any that ever was done by any mind worthy in England.

**A pleasant Tale of a Country Farmer, that looked in
Scoene to have his Pursecut or drawne from
him, and how a Boyd served him.**

I T was told me of a truth that not long since here in London, there lay a Country Farmer, with stores of his neighbours about him, matters enough to him, on of them going to Westminster Hall, was by a fopd knight of all the pence in his Purse, and coming home, made great complaint of his misfortune, some Gentlemen he tolde, and others exclaimed against the Cutpurses, but this Farmer he laught loudly at the matter, & says such fooles as could not keepe their Purse no longer, were well served; and for my part quoth he, I so much loathe the Cutpurses, that I would change hands withly that would take pence to fopd mine, well says his neighbour, then you may thank me, for my harmes I sent you to beware, but if it be true, that many things fall out betwene the city and the lip, you know not what hands Fortune may light in your owne lap, thus quoth the Farmer, heres some pence in this Purse to you, the pious Cutpurse in England win it and wear it, thus he bestowed. There stood a subtil fopd by, and heard all, smiling to himselfe at the folly of the pious Farmer, and bowed to have his Purse, on venture his necke for it, and so went home and betrayed it to a crew of his Companions, who taking it in durance, that they should be paid home by a Peasant. But where saw they not, they held a consultation, and both consulted, and concluded with a generall consent, to bend all their wittes to be possessers of this Farmers Boing, and for the ex-

scution

True men, come by their goods.

accution of this their note, they haunted about the Tanne where he late
and dogd him into diuers places, both to Westminster-Hall, and
other places, and yet could neuer light vpon it; he was so watchfull
and smokt them so narrowly, that all their trauell was in vaine, at
last one of them hee tooke to a more cunning policie, and went & leard
the mans name & where he dwelt, and then he byed him to the Count
ter and entred an Action against him of trespassse, damages, two hun
dred pounds, when he had thus done, hee sent two Sargiants, and
carried them adowne with him to the mans lodging, wishing them not
to arrest him till hee commanded them; well agreed they were, and
downe to the Farmers lodging they came, where were a crew of
Foyles, whom he had made priuy to the end of his practice, stood
marrying, but he tooke no knowledge at all of them, but walkt by and
downe, the Farmer came out and went to Bowles, the Cutpurse
had staie, and would not yet suffer the Officers to meddle with him,
till he came into the West end of Pauls Church-yard, and there
he willed them to doe their Office, and they stepping to the Farmer
arrested him, the Farmer amazed, being amongst his neighbors,
asked the Sargiant at whole suite hee was troubled, at whole suite
saue it he, sayd one of the Cutpurses that stood by, you are wronger
honest man, for hee hath arrested you here in a place of priuiledge,
where the Sherifes nor Officers haue nothing to doe with you, and
therefore you are vnwile if you obey him, tush sayes an other Cut
purse, though the man were so simple of himselfe, yet shall hee not
offer the Church so much wrong, as by peelding to the Place, to im
bolish Pauls libertie, and therefore I will take his part, and with
that he drew his sword, another tooke the man and haled him away,
the Officer he strooke hard to him, and sayd he was his true prisoner,
and cride Clabber, the Gentiles arose, and there was a great hurly
burly, for they took the Officers parts, so that the poore Farmer was
mightily turmoyled amongst them, & almost haled in peeces, whilest
thus the strife was, one of the Foyles had taken his purse away, and
was gone, and the Officer carried the man away to a Gaerne, for he
swore he knew no such man, nor any man that he was indebted to: as
then they were drinking of a quart of wine, the Foyles that had caused
him to be arrested, sent a note by a Boyer to the Officer that he should
release the Farmer, for he had mistaken the man; which note the Offi
cer shewed him, and had him pay his fees and go his wayes, the poore

A prettie shift,
and some
advice

Country
and Gallies
as Chines
of the

Two Theeues falling out

One strikes
another.

COUNTRYMAN was content with that, and put his hand in his pocket
to feel for his purse, and God-wot there was none, which made his
heart fatter more cold then the Arctick dio, and with that fetching a
great sigh, he said: Alas Quaintes I am undone, my Purse in this
Fray is taken out of my pocket, and my goods in Gold dust besides
white money. And so, said the Sergeant, commonly in such matters,
the Carpurser be hild; and I pray God the quairrell may not tane
upon purpose by the wick: packers. Well sayes his freighbour who
shall smile at you now, the other day when I lost my Purse, you
laught at me. The Farmer speakt all, and tane him content, and de-
roued him of his Neighbour to pay the Sergeant, and was a tea-
ning (I believe) eare after, to blame the Carpurser.

**A passing pleasant Tale, how a whore
Conny-catcht a Foyll.**

A Country
oyll Gallie
the Citie
oylla.

There came out of the Country a Foyll, to trie his experience
here in the Cittie of Gallie, and drooke a hand in this, but the
diuell a snap he would giue to our citizen Foyles, but wrough
warly, and could not bee fetcht off by no meanes, and yet it
was knowne he has some twentie pounds about him, but he plant
is so cunningly in his doublet, that it was sure enough for hanging.
Although the Cittie Foylls tane all the plott they could, as well by
discouering him in the Cittie as elsewhere, yet hee was so possi-
tique, that they could not deele upon him by any meanes, which
grieved them so, that one day at dinner, they held a counsaile among
them.

True men, come by their Goods.

themselves how to conserue him, but in time, till at last a good woman
 that sat by, undertooke it, so they would sweare to let her haue all
 that her day, they confirmed it solemnly, and she put it in practice
 thus: she subtilly insinuated her selfe into this Fopps company, who
 seeing her appetite was much began, after some meetings, to waite vpon
 her with her, and so question about a nights lodging, after a little
 more toying and bawling he was content for her supper and what else
 she should please her selfe vpon her, for he held it for one of the best
 to see a salarie passe out her body: the Fopp was gladd of this, and
 yet he would not trust her, so that he put no more but reuenue fillings
 in his pocket, but he had about twenty pouldres quailed in his doublet
 till as he thought supper time came, and thither comes my gentle
 Fopp, who making good cheer, was so eager of his game that he
 would straight to bedde, by the leant of dame Dams, who had her set
 constant the whole night: all about midnight, where there was some old
 Becklers, whom she had promised vpon purpose came to the moore
 and rap: lustily, who is there takes the Dams looking out at the
 window, marre for they, such a Justice (and named one about the
 Cities that is a mortall enemy to Carpuries) who is now come to
 search your house for a Justice and other suspected persons: alas he
 says her, I haue none here, will youth they, Out the house. I
 will, says hee, and with that he came into the Fopps Chamber,
 who heare all this, and was a waye it was some search for him,
 so that he desired the Dams to helpe him, that he might not be seene.
 Whyp then quoth he) step into this Closet. Wee went in together, and
 yet remember his Cloathes. Wee lockt him in safe, and then let
 in the crew of Rakehels, who making as though they searcht euery
 Chamber, came at last into that where his Lemnian lay, and asked
 her what he was: She, as if she had been attrait, desired their discou-
 ers to be good to her, she was a poore Countre Maide come up to
 the Traine. And who is that, quoth they, that was in bed with you?
 None saysooth, says he. No, says our, that is a lie, here is the print. The Wolfe,
 at two, and beides, where soeuer the Foxe is, here is his shining, for cause the Foxe
 this is his Doublet and Vole: Then downe shee falls vpon her
 knees, and says, in such words her Husband. Your Husband, quoth
 they, nay that cannot be (Opinion) for why then would you haue de-
 uised him at this rate? Then they, one of them turned to the Dams, and
 did question with her what he was, & where he was: Truly sir, says

25 **Therewas falling out, comen in T**

Cardes well
pock, are as
hale the game
won.

So, they came to my house, and said they were man and wife; and for my part I knew them for no other, and her being afraid, (as indeed) to confesse the truth) shut by in the Closet. No doubt (if I please your worship) (saies one cakebrell) I warrant you, he is some notable Cup-
purdie or Pickpocket, that is strapp'd to these his feet; come & open the Closet, and let us looke on him. May he sayes she, not for to night I beleech your worship carry no man out of my house: I will giue my money her shall he to-morrow coming in morning morning. Your worship dame Bawd, saies one, tis not worth a straw. Don Quixotte, that saies ye are his wife, ye shall goe with us; and for him, that we may be sure he may not stray. He take his Doublet, Hose, and Cloake; & to my-
row He lend them to him up one of my men; were there a thousand pounds in there, there shall not be a penny diminish'd. The Whore kneeld down on her knees, and saies to cry pittifully, & desired the Justice. Justice take one of her companions, not to carry her to Prison. Yes Justice, quoth he, your mate & you shall not carry neither to one house, that you may make your sales all one, & therefore taking her away, and after, ye dame Bawd, let you lend him no other cloathes, for I will send him in the morning betimes, and come you with him to answer for taking him. I will be sayes she; and so away goes the Justice & her companions laughing, and left the Bawd in the Ropell. As soon as the Bawd thought good, she unlocks the Closet, & find the time that ever they came in her house; now (quoth she) heere will be a laye about, how will you answer for your selfe? I leave me I shall be in danger of the Law. Well (quoth he) ye be short, I would not for twenty poundes come along the Justice. May no more would I, quoth she, I leave him. If you were converted better, but I have not a ray of man's apparel in the house. Why (quoth he) seeing it is early morning, lend me a Blanket to put about me, and I will scape to a friendes house of mine. Then leave me a gowne, quoth the Bawd. Alas I have none, sayes he, but this I hang on my finger. Why that, quoth she, is ready while the Justice comes; so he gave it her, & took the Blanket and went his way; whether I know not, but to some friendes house of his. Thus was this wily Ropell by the wit of a sub-
till wench, cunning to strip of all that he had, and turn'd to grass to get more facts.

Worse feared,
then hurt.

Ret. Now say you to this deuce Stephen, was it not excellent? What think you of a Whore's wit, if it can doe such wonders?

Steph.

True men, come by their Goods.

Steph. Marry I thinke my Mother was wiser then all the honest
Women of the Parish besides.

Kate. Why then be like she was of our facultie, and a Patroness of
my profession, nimble of her hands, quick of her tongue, and light of
her cap; I should have pyn in, Sir reverencie: but a soule mayd is
good enough for a silly Kneave.

Steph. I am glad you are so pleasant Kate, you were not so merry
when you went to Dunstable: but indeed I must needs confesse that
women for often, if they be carefull in their trades, are (though not so
common) yet more dangerous then men for often: Women have
quicke wittes, as they have short brekes; and they can get with plea-
sure, what we fly for with danger: but now giving you the Ducklers
as this weapon, let me have a blow at you with another.

Kate. But before you put forward any more Arguments, by your leave
in a little by-talker. You know Stephen, that though you can say, nay,
pige, dit, carbe, &c. the Blacke art, yet you cannot be so bold without
the stripe of a Woman which crosbitching now whips, is growne to a
wonderfull modicable exercise, for some cowardly Whores that for
fear of the Gallows, leane nipping & fording, become Crobitchers,
knowing there is no danger therein but a little punishment, at the time
the Whillogie, and that is feared but a little *Phrygianus Americanus*: as for
example, W. C. is now a reformed man; what soever he hath been in
his youth, now in his latter years he is growne a crosbitcher of Cline;
for whom soever he takes suspicious with his wife, I warrant you he
scars a sure fire on his head; though he hath nothing to his wife but a
bare hille: and in this Act, we poore Menches are put forth props
and stay. If you will not believe mee, altho poore A. B. in Turnmill
street, what a lawfull Signer there is, whose purblind eyes can scarce-
ly discern a Kinsloe from a Glen, and yet he hath such insight into the
mysticall trade of Crobitching, that hee can furnish his Booz with a
hundred poundes worth of Blace: I doubt the same eye will
kicke like a Westerne Dugge, if I rubbe him on the goule, but tis
no matter if he find himselfe toucht and stirre, although he boastes of
the chiefe of the Clergies fendur; yet he is let his name out, that
the Boyes at Smithfield barres shall challenge him on the backe for a
Crobitcher. Tally, you often are lapped in scorching noviers over the
coales: Darken to mee Stephen, I'll tell thee a moonder. There
dwelt here sometimes a good ancient Patron, that had a fayre Mench

Crosbitching
now most in
use.

The ends falling out, rom 511 T

to her Daughter, as young and tender as a maypole: While this
Lemman, her she let out to sale in her youth, and was on her way to be
sister to her Daughter, some moans, and some prayers; yet none
married her, but of her Beauty they made profit; and in eagerness
till they had spent upon her what they had, and she was sold, she and
her young Virgin turne them out of doore like prodigall Children.
She was acquainted with Dutch, French, Italian, and Spaniard, as
well as English, so that, as so often the Pitcher goes to the Brooke
that it comes broken home, my faire Daughter was hit on the maister
beins, and gotten with child, and the Mother, for apace this matter
sane her Daughters Marriage, began to weave a Cushion under her
sinne stile, and to save her selfe with child, but let her Daughter
passe as though she saw nothing: When the fourtie weekes were
come, and my young Virgin must needs cry out for looth, this old B.
had gotten a husband, and made to her sister, and so brought her
Daughter to bed, and let her goe up and down the house, and then
in Crease lay a childen as though she had been delivered, and thus
the Child was born, and so saved her Daughters life: Well now
this a merry woman, Mr. Stephen, brought by an old Witch, to have a
Child in her age, and make a young one for some other use: The good
Tale, this is little to the purpose, if I should tell all, you would
be as loath as under the picture of marriage: Well, so you shall see
nor see you were not kisse enough for her, although it cost you many
Crownes, and the salt of your service: He lay downe, perhaps he
will awake her mother: Mr. Stephen, how like you what is said
in Crofting mee put you to sleep, for you will, in this world, look
in a about London, and you may say to her, what a good Child
is Croft in the year by one of our fathers, and so.

Steph. I cannot say Kate, but you have set downe strange pre-
cepts of Channys preiudiciall to him, but per the high power of God
bites, Fowles, and Rigs; put you are not good: What is the
great help to our Facultie, to live in the world of Satan, as a creature
Kate. What ther a word, I thought you had spoken of R.P. C.
his wife. Take heed, they be partow folks; and greatly acquainted
with Keepers and Topleys, therefore involve not you with them: For
I heare say, the Belman hath smothered the spirit of the Devil, and
to tell such a fable Tale of him in his Bedchamber, that is well
him a dangerous point.

Steph.

One with
Child, with a
Cousner.

gentle
at: from wo

True men come by their goods.

See. Kate, Kate, let I.P. be wate, for had not an ill fortune
come to the Webman, he could take little haime.

Kate. Who is that Stephen, D.VV.

See. Say, I will not name him.

Kate. Why then I pray thee what misfortune befell him?

See. Warry Kate, he was strangely wastt alate by a
french Barber, and had all the haire of his face miraculously
shaven off by the stycke of Gods vengeance, in so much that
some sayd he had that he had not, but no hap was, howsoe-
uer his haire fell off, it cost him in some stead when he was
was alate: for if he had not call off his beard and so being un-
known, it had cost him some knockes, but it fell out to his best.

Kate. The more hard fortune that he has such ill hap, but
hailie journeyes breed dangerous sweates, & Physicians call
it the Ale Perils, yet omitting all this, againe to where you left.

See. You haue almost brought me out of my matter, but I
was talking about the List, commending to what a good quali-
ty it was, and how hurtfull it was, seeing we practise it in
Speccers Shopes, with Barber bathers of small towey, Haberdash-
ers of Hats & Caps, amongst Merchant Taylors for Hose
and Doublets, and in such places getting much gaine by
Lifting, when there is no good purchase abroad by Foisting.

The condition
of a List.

Kate. Suppose you are good at the list, who be more run-
ning then we women, in that we are more trusted, for they
little suspect vs, & we haue as close conueyance as you men,
though you haue Cloakes, we haue skirts of gownes, hand-
baskets, the crownes of our hats, our plauchards, and for a
mids, silke bags vnder our smockes, wherein we may conuey
more closely then you.

See. I know not where to touch you, you are so witty in
your answers, and haue so many starting holes, but let me
be pleasant to you a little, what say you to Wiggins or horse-
stealing, I hope you neuer had experience in that faculty.

Kate. Alas simple for, yes, and more shift to shunne the
gallows then you.

See. Why tis impossible.

C

Kate.

Theeves falling out,

I will tell you
wonders of this
mad wench &
her husband,
in my blacke
booke, with
both their
names.

Kate, In faith sir no, and for proofe, I will put you down
with a story of a mad, merry, little, dapper, fine wench, who
at Spilby faire had three hoxles of our owne, or another mans
to sell, as she, her husband, and another good fellow, walked
them up and downe the faire, the owner came & apprehen-
ded them all, & clapt them in prison, theaylor not keeping
them close prisoners, but letting them lye all a Chamber, by
her wit she instructed them in a sozmall tale, that she saved all
their lives thus. Being brought the next morrow after their
apprehension, before the Iustices, they examined y men how
they came by the hoxles, and they confest they met her with
them, but where she had them, they knew not: then was my
pretty peat brought in, who being a handsome Wenll, blisht
as if she had been full of grace, and being demanded where she
had the hoxles, made this answere: Say if please your wor-
ships, this man my husband, playing the vnthrift, as many
more haue done, was absent from me soz a quarter of a yeare,
which grieved me not a litle, insomuch y desirous to see him,
& hauing intelligence he would be at Spilby faire, I went
thither euen for pure loue of him, on foot, & being within some
ten miles of y towne, I wared passing weary, & rested me of-
ten, & grew very faint, at last there came riding by me a Ser-
ueman in a blew coat, with 3 hoxles tide at one anothers
taile, which he led, as I gesst, to sell at the faire: the Seruing
man seeing me so tired, took pittie on me, & asked me if I wold
ride on one of his empty hoxles, for his owne wold not beare
double, I thankt him heartily, & at the next hill got vp, & rode
til we came to a towne within 3 miles of Spilby, where the
Seruing man alighted at a house, & bad me ride on afoze, and
he wold presently ouertake me. Well, sozward I rode halfe
a mile, & looking behind me, could see no body: so being alone,
my heart began to rise, and I to thinke on my husband: as I
had rid a litle further, looking downe alane, I saw two men
conning iustly by, as if they were weary, & marking them
earnestly, I saw one of them was my husband, which made
my heart as light as before it was sad: so saying for them,
after

True men come by their goods.

after a little vnhinde grating betwixt vs (foz I chid him foz his vnchastiteneſſe) he asked me where I had the hozes; and I told him how curteouſly the Serningman had vsed me: to he then ſaies he, ſtay foz him: nay quoth I, lets ride on, and get you two vpon the empty hozes, foz he will ouer-take vs ere we come at the towne, he rides on a ſtout luſty yong gelding: ſo foz ward we went, and lookt often behind vs, but our Serningman came not. At laſt we comming to Spillby, alighted & broke our ſaddles, & tied our hozes at the doore, that if hee paſſe by, ſeing them, he might call in; after we had broke our ſaddles, thinking he had gone ſome other way, we went into a hozes-faire, and there walkt our hozes vp & dowe to meet with a Serningman, not foz the intent to ſell them. Now may it pleaſe your worſhip, whether he had ſtolne the hozes from this honeſt man or no, I know not; but alas, ſimply I brought them to them to the hozes-faire, to let him that deliuered me them, haue them againe: foz I hope your worſhips do imagine if I had ſtolne them, as it is ſuſpected, I would neuer haue brought them into ſo publicke a place to ſell: yet it laie by any way dangerous foz a ſolliſh dore, becauſe I know not the Serningman, it is I muſt hide the puniſhment, and as guiltleſſe as my ſelfe: and ſo making a low curſe ſhe ended. The Iuſtice holding vp his hand, and wondering at the womans wiſe, that had clered her husband and his friends, & ſaued herſelfe without compaſſe of the law. Now like you of this Stephen? cannot we waite as priggie well?

Step. I think Kate I ſhal be ſure to giue you a bucklar.

Kate. Alas good Stephen, thou art no Logician, thou canſt not reaſon foz thy ſelfe, nor haſt no witty argument to wate me to an exigent: and therefore giue me leave at large to reaſon foz this ſupper, remember the ſubiection of our diſputation, is the poſitiue queſtion, whether Thieues or Whores are moſt preiudiciall to the Common-wealth. Alas, you poore theues do only ſteale & purloine from men, & the harme you do, is to impoveriſh mens goods, & bring them to pouerty: this is the onely end of mens thievery, and the greateſt preiudice

Theeves falling out,

that grows from robbing and sleeking, so much do we by on
these, and more by our lechery: for what is the end of whores
dome, but consuming of goods and begery, and besides, per-
petuall infamy? We bring yong yowthes to ruine and utter
destruction: I pray you Stephen whether had a Sparchante
sonne, having wealthy parents, better light upon a whoze,
then a Cut-purse, the one onely taking his money, the other
bringing him to utter confusion. For if the Fox light vpon
him, or the Conny-catcher, he loseth at the most some hun-
dredth pounds: but if he fall into the company of a Withoze,
she flatters him, she intregles him, she bewitcheth him, that
he spareth neither gods nor lands to content her, that is on-
ly in love with his coine: if hee bee married, hee forsakes his
wife, leaues his children, despiseth his friends. Only to satise
his lust with the lous of a base Withoze, who when hee
hath spent all vpon her, and he thought to beggery, bawdeth
him out like the Whoringall child, and for a small reward,
brings him, if to the fairest end, to begg: if to the second, to
the gallows: or at the last and worst, to the poe, or as preiu-
ditiell diseases. I pray you Stephen when any of you come
to your confession at Eybarnes, what is your last sermon
that you make? What you were brought to that wicked and
shamefull end, by following of Whores: for to that end doe
you straele to maintaine whores, and to content their badde
humors. Oh Stephen I enter your owne thoughts, and think
what the face worde of a warden will doe, what the smiles
of a strumpet will draw a man to do, into what isordy a
man will thrust himselfe for her that hee loves, although for
his swetes villany hee bee brought to a loathsome leprousse.
Tush Stephen, they say the poe came from Naples, some
from Spaine, some from France: but whereofeuer it first
grew, it is so surely now rooted in England, that by so. Sych
it may better bee called A Morbus Anglicus, then Gallicus,
and I hope you will grant all these French fauours growe
from Withozes: besides, in my high louing, or rather cree-
ping, I meane where men and women to rob together, there
altogether

The end of
keeping a
whores com-
panie.

True men come by their goods.

alwayes the Woman is most bloudy: for shee alwayes be-
geth unto death: and though the Men would onely satiate
themselves with the parties coine, yet shee murthereth her theft in
bloud, murthering parties so deeply as shee is malicious: I
hope (gentle Stephen) you cannot contradict these reasons:
they be so openly manifestly probable. For mine owne part,
I hope you do not imagine but I haue had some friends be-
sides poore George my husband: Alas, hee knowes it, and
is content, like an honest simple Suffragan, to bee continually
with a number of other good Companions, and I haue made
many a good man, I means a man that hath a household, for
the loue of mee to goe home and beate his poore wife, when
God wottes, I mocke him for the money hee spent, and hee
had nothing for his pence, but the waste belanings of others
heavily labours.

Women out-
strippe men in
villany.

Stephen, Stephen, if Concubines could unweagle Salo-
mon, if Dalilah could betray Sampson, then wonder not if
we (more nice in our wickednesse then a thousand Dalilahs)
can seduce poore young Honicks to their utter destruction.
Search the Charles, there you shall heare complaints of
Whores: Look into the Spittles, and Hospitalls: there
you shall see men diseased of the French Charles, giving in-
struction to others that are sick to beware of Whores, bee
an Auditor of eare-witness at the death of any Thiefe, and
his last testament is, Take heed of a Whore.

Examples.

I dare scarce speake of Wyde-will, because my Wor-
shers tremble at the name of it, I haue so often defecured it:
yet looke but in there, and you shall heare poore men with
their hands in their Pigeon-holes, cry: Oh hee upon
Whores, when Fowler giues them the terrible lash. Gra-
mine Beggars that lye lame by the high-way, and they say,
they came to that misery by Whores: Some thicke-bare
Citizens, that scame Merchants, and other good Estates,
grow to be base Infamers and Knights of the Post, crye
out when they dine with Duke Humphrey: What wicked-
nesse comes from Whores. Identifies that runne from
their

their matters lay out upon whoozes. With Stephen, what enormities growe more in the Common-wealth, then from whoozisme. But sith it is almost supper-time, and much is the kinde to digestion, I meane a little to be pleasant. I pray you how many had profite againe growes from whoozes: How well would haue very few Tenants, & how small would want Patients, & the Surgeants much worke, the Apothecaries would haue surphaling water, and Doctors rates layd on their hands, the Painters could not dispatch and make away their vermilion, if tal- low-cand whoozes were it not for their chokes. What should I say more Stephen? The South-wind should haue a great mist of us, and whozibitch would complaine to dame Jane a Cleare, if one of the sister-hood should not uphold her tollity. Who is that Stephen comes to us heare out talk: Oh sith the boy Kate that told us supper is ready. Why then Stephen what say you to me: haue I not shewed that in smiling and nipping we erre all you, that there is none so great inconvenience in the Common-wealth, as growes from whoozes: As for the corrupting of youth, infecting of age, for teaching of bawles, to be of ensue murder, inso- much that the ruine of many men comes from us, and the fall of many youths of good hope, if they were not seduced by us, as I declare at Exborne that was her the meane of their misery: you men shames touch the body, and wealth, but we ruine the soule, and inuanger that which is more precious then the world's treasure: you make whoze onely for the gallies, we both for the gallies and the Wheel, I and for the Surgeon too, that some liue like hell-hounds La- jers, and die with the French Parbles. Whereupon I con- clude that I haue wonne the supper.

Steph. I confesse it Kate, for thou hast told me such won- derous villainies, as I thought neuer could haue ben in wo- men, I meane of your profession: how you are Crocodiles when you weep, Basilisks when you smile, Serpents when you denise, and the Witches chiefe helpers to bring & worke to

True men come by their goods.

to destruction. And so Kate lets sit downe to our meate and be merry.

THus Country-men, you haue heard the disputation between these two cousing companions, wherein I haue shakt out the notable vilany of whores, although mistress Kate this good Quatrells, hath sworne to weate a long Hambozough knife to stab me, and all the crew haue protested my death: & to proue they meant good earnest, they beleagred me being at supper: there were some foureteen or fiftene of them met, and thought to haue made that y fatal night of my over-thro, but that the courteous Cittizens and Apprentises toke my part, and so two or thre of them were caried to the Counter, although a Gentleman in my company was sore hurt. I cannot deny but they began to waite away about London, and my home hath eaten by many of them, and I will plague them to y extremity, let them doe what they dare with their bilbow blades, I feare them not: and to giue them their last adue, loke shortly Country-men, for a Pamphlet against them, called, The creeping New Lawes, Law, of petty theues, that rob about the Sub-urbs. The limiting law, discourting the orders of such as follow Judges in their circuits, and goe about from faire to faire. The lugging law, wherein I will set out the disorders at pines-holes and Killing-hou, how they are onely for the benefite of the Cut-purses. The stripping law, wherein I will lay open the lewd abuses of sundry Taylors in England. Beside, you shall see there what houses there be about the Sub-urbs and townes end, that are receiuers of Cut-purses stolne goods, Lifts and such like. And lastly, loke for a Bed-roll or Catalogue of all the names of the Fopps, Pypes, Lifts, & Pig-gars, in and about London: and although some say I dare not do it, yet I will shortly set it abroad, and whosoever I name or touch, if he thinke himselfe grieved, I will answer him.

The

Theories falling out,

The conversion of an English Courtezan.

A Harlots re-
pentance.

So to discourse my penitence, would double the griefe of
my living penance, and render to them the memory of
great sinne, and that my penitence will, would be a disho-
nour to the house from whence I came. So to manifest the
place of my birth, would be a blaspemy (though my bewily
life so long) to the fathers house I was borne: With
to discourse my name, might be a blot in my kindreds
booke, to bring a dishonour to the stocke of so little grace, I will
conceale my parents, kin, and Country, and sponde my
name with silence, lest enuy might saunt offends for my
iniquitie. Henceforth, I was borne in the scope
mine from London, of honest and honest parents, who
had many children, but I their only daughter, and there-
fore the dearest wherein they most delighted, and more, the
youngest of all, and therefore the more favoured, for being
gotten in the morning of my parents age, they bestowed on me
above the rest, and so left their hearts the more on fire: I
was the fairest of all, and yet not more beautiful then I
was witty, in so much that being a pretty Parrot, I had
such quaint conceits, and witty words in my mouth, that
the neighbours kin, I was to some use, to be long old.
Would to God either the Honours had bene authenticall,
as their sayings I; or bene, then had I by death in my voi-
rage, borne many blaspemies that my ripe yeares brought
me to: For the extreme love of my parents, was the very
efficient cause of my fall, assembling herein the power of
the Age, that ever followeth that young one which has loveth
most, with embracing it too tenderly. So my father and
mother, but she most of all, although she so much, so cohe-
red me up in my iniquitie, that my last griefe to the
world, and I swore to part with the ill words: What so-
ever I did, were it never so bad, might not be found fault
withall, my father would finde it, and say, Twas but the
tricke

True men come by their goods.

tricks of a child, and my mother alloted all my unhappy parts, alluding to this prophane and old proverb, having toward a girl makes a good woman.

But now I am, in hearing the say, then bates themselves
that other kind fathers make virgine daughters. Had they
hent the maid while it has been young, it would have bene
pliant; but I all growne in my yeares, am almost rained
leafe. The Maids that is most perfect for the sight and will,
felceme proueth hazard, and children that are virtuously
nurtured in youth, will be honestly nutured in age: As upon
such as say: yong Saints old Diuels, it is no doubt a binol
lity and damnable saying: for what is not hent in the Cr
adle will surely be hained in the Sable. We felt an an
stance, when I growe to be sixty yeares old; was set to
School, more than I needed so much, that I might and coul
delynt well, plaie upon the Virginals, Lute & Citore, and
could sing as long as the first night in January, so that
time I was thirte yeares old. I was taken by the hand
fate and best qualitye some girl in all that Countrey, and
with this remembrance of my first mistress, in that my yowth
instructed me to be to maintain.

[illegible]

Spectator venit, spectamus, spectemur.

I went to the f f be scene, and deckt my selfe in the highest degree of biauery, holding it a glory when I was waited on with many eyes, to make reuence of my birth. Whence, I became an ordinary dancer, and grew in that quality so famous, that I was noted as the chiefest thereat in all the Countrey: yea, and to loth me vp in these follies, my Parents took a pride in my dauncing, which after ward proued my ouerthrow, and their heart-breaking.

Thus as an vnbroke Colt, I carelesly led forth my youth, and wantonly spent the flower of my yeares, holding such Playebus as were modest, soles, and such as were not as wilfully toanton as my selfe, puppies, ill brought vp, and without manners. Growing on in yeares, as time not time tarried for no man, I began to looe passion, and to thinke her not worthy to die, that was not a little in loue, that an diuers young men began to loue me for my beauty. So I began to misse of some of them partially, and to delight in the multitude of many wooers, being ready to fall from the seruitude I was come to the possession of a blis- some, which my uncle of this feeling, who was my mothers brother, as carefull of my welfare, as me to mee in kinne, finding this apparantly euill to my, gave mee this wholesome reprehension and good advice. *Witch words to wanton Maidens.*

Come then, I in the fairest time he hath attended vpon the sick- ness of youth, that the doctor sayeth hath the most dangerous founders, the highest flame the most hidden thorne, and the yor gell virgins the most dangerous fortunes, I speake as a kindman, and withins a friend, the blossom of a spend- ing youth (such as your selfe) hath attended vpon it making frosts to nip it, and diuine rales to consume it, so that if it be not carefully lakt vnto, it will perish before it come to any perfection.

A virgins honour consisteth not onely in the gifts of nature,

True men come by their goods.

ture, as to be faire and beautifull, though they be fauours that grace warden much: for as they be glistering, so they be momentary, ready to be woone with euery winters blast and parched with euery Summers sunne, there is no face so faire, but the least woele, the tenderest scarre, the smallest brunt of sicknesse, will quickly blamish.

Beauty (Coyen) as it flourisheth in youth, so it fadeth in age, it is but a folly that sedeth many eye, a painting that Nature lends for a time, and men allow on for a while, in so much that such as onely aime at your faire looks, tye but their loues to an Apprentiship of beauty, which broken, either with cares, misfortune, or yeares, their desires are at liberty, and they begin to loth you, and like of others.

For shee that is looked on by many, cannot chuse but be hardly spoken of by some: for reposed hath a blister on her tongue, & warden actions are narrowly measured. Therefore would not the ancient Romans suffer their daughters to goe any further then their mothers looks guided them. And therefore Diana is painted with a Tortoise vnder her feet, meaning, that a maid should not be a stragler, but like the snail, carry her house on her head, and keepe at home at her worke, so to keepe her name without blamish, and her vertues from the slander of enuy.

Coyen, I speake this generally, which if you apply particularly to your selfe, you shall find in time my words were well said.

I gaue him sencer thanks, but with such a stumpe that he perceiued how light I made of his counsaile: which hee perceiving, shakt his head, and with teares in his eyes, departed. But I whom wanton desires had drawn in delight, still presumed in my former follies, and gaue my selfe either to gad abroad, or else at home to read dissolute pamphlets, which bred in me many ill-affectes wishes, so that I gaue leaue to loue and lust to enter into the center of my heart, where they harboured till they wrought my finall and fall miserie.

Thus leading my life long, and being comforted by with
the applause of my two kind and loving parents, I had ma-
ny of other desires that made love bind me, as well for my
beauty, as for the hope of reward that my father would be-
stow upon me: And by this I was, and allowed of all,
though I particularly granted love to none, yielding them
nothing but thanks, as being proud I had more lovers than a-
ny man in the party, yet still amongst the rest there was a
certain younger farmer that wished me well, a man of some forty
years of age, one too worthy for one of so little worth as my-
self, than my father, mother, and other friends, would have
had me marry my self withall: But I that was the carrier of
liberty so long at mine own hand, would not, I would
not be ruled by their persuasions; and though my mother
longer rather intended me to continue of mine own estate,
yet well I perceived I was too young, yet certainly I be-
lieved her counsel, and daily more assured, that I would
were of him: Which, though it pleased my parents as the
quick, yet rather than they would violate me, they left me
to mine own liberty to love: Many there were before him,
many more came in after me, that were lovers unto mine,
but in vain, since my will was set upon one man to a
looser end, for I refused them all, and was the better, re-
solving to light on the flower of flowers all day, married at
night in a Colonnade.

It so turned, that as many sought to win me, so amongst
the rest there was an old companion that lived with a Gen-
tleman, and by a way of that relation, and of no il-
lusion, neither his nor my brethren's qualities, but by running
on the first conceits of pleasant discourse he was, and could
draw out many quaint and curious stories, and so
was honored of the world for his society. Now thinking
company suitable to my life in vanity, would oft come
to talking with me, and I so long with him, that I
began to suspect (oh let me blush at the confession) to love
love with him, and so construed of all his actions, that I com-
mended

True men come by their goods.

sented to mine owne over-throw: for as smoke will hardly be concealed, so love will not be long smothered, but will bewray her owne secrets, which was manifest in me, who in my sporting with him, so betozaied my affection, & he spying I favoured him, began to strike when the yron was hott, and to take opportunity by the forehead, and one day finding me in a merrie vaine, beganne to question with me of love: which although at the first I tenderly denied him, yet at last I granted, so that not onely I agreed to plight him my faith, but that night meeting to haue further talke, I lastingly consented that he crop the honour of my virginity. When thus I was spoiled by such a base companion, I gave my selfe to content his humor, and to satissie the sweet of mine owne wanton desire. Oh here let me breathe, and with teares bewaile the beginning of my miseries, and to exclaime against the folly of my Parents, who by too much fauouring me in my vanitie in my tender youth, laid the first plot of my ensuing repentance: Had they with due correction chastised my wantonnesse, and suppressed my foolish will with their graue aduice, they had made me more verueous, and themselves lesse sorrowfull. A fathers scowle is a wbole to the child, and a mothers checke is a star to the Rabboyns daughter. Oh had my parents in ouer-louing me not hated me, I had not at this time cause to complaine.

But leauing this digression, againe to the holnesse of mine owne life, who now hauing lost the glory of my youth, and suffered such a baselasse to possesse it, which many men of worth had desired to enioy, I towded bold in sinne, and grew shamelesse, insomuch he could not desire so much as I to graunt him: whereupon, seeing he durst not reueale it to my father to demand me in marriage, he resolved to carry me away secretly, & therefore witht me to provide for my selfe, & to furnish me every way both with money & apparrell, hoping as he said, & after we were departed, and my father saw we were married, & that no meanes was to aments it, he would giue his consent, & be as kinde, and deale with us as

Theeues falling out,

liberally, as if wee had matcht with his good will. I that was apt to any ill, agreed to this, and so wrought the matter, that he carried me away into a strange place, and then vsing me a while as his wife, when our money beganne to waxe low, hee resolved secretly to go into y^e Countrey where my father dwelt, to heare not onely how my father took my departure, but what hope we had of his ensuing fauour: al- though I was loth to be left in a strange place, yet I was willing to heare from my friends, who no doubt conceived much heart sorrow for my unhappy fortunes: so that I parted with a few teares, and enioyned him to make all the haste he might to returne. He being gone, as the Eagles al- wayes resort where the carrion is, so the brute being spied abroad of my beauty, and that at such an Anne lay such a faire young Gentlewoman, there resorted thither many braue yong Gentlemen, and cutting companions, that tickled with lust, aimed at the possession of my fauour, and by sundry meanes sought to haue a sight of me, which I easily granted to all, as a woman that counted it a glory to bee wooed at by many mens eyes: insomuch that cunning amongst them, I set their hearts more and more on fire, that there arose diuers brawles who should bee most in my company. Being thus haunted by such a troope of lusty ruf- fiers, I began to find mine otone folly, that had placed my first affection so lowly, and therefore began as deeply to loath him that was departed, as earst I liked him when hee was present, howling in my selfe, though he had the spoile of my virginity, yet neuer after should he triumph in the posses- sion of my fauour: and therefore began I to affection these new-come guests, and one aboue the rest, who was a braue yong Gentleman, and no lesse addicted vnto me, than I de- voted vnto him: so daily hee courted mee with amorous Sonnets, and curious pend letters, and sent me Jewels, and all that I might grace him with the name of my ser- uant: I returned him as louing lines at last, and so conten- ted his lasting desire, that secretly and unknowing to all the

rest

True men come by their goods.

cell, I made him sundry nights my bed-fellow; where I so bewitcht him with sweet words, that the man began deaply to dote vpon me, insomuch that selling some portion of land that he had, he put it into ready money, and prouiding Horse and all things conuenient, carried me secretly away, almost as farre as the Bathe. This was my second choyce, and my second shame: thus I went forward in wickednesse, and delighted in change, hauing left mine old loue to looke after some other mate moze fit for my purpose: how he toke my departure when he returned, I little cared: for now I had my content, a Gentleman, yong, lusty, and indued with good qualities, and one that loued mee moze tenderly then himselfe. Thus liued this new entertained friend & I together unmarried, yet as man and wife for a while, so lovingly as was to his content and my credit: but as the Tyger, though for a while she hide her claws, yet at last shee will reueale her cruelty: and as the Agnus Castus lease when it lookes most dry, is then most full of moisture, so wantonnes is not qualified by their warmnes, nor both their charinelle for a moneth warrant their castity for euer, which I proued true: for my supposed husband being every way a man of worth, could not so couertly hide himselfe in the Countrey, though a stranger, but that he fell in acquaintance with many brane Gentlemen, whom hee brought home to his lodging, not onely to honour them with his liberall courtesie, but also to see me, being prond if any man of worth applauded my beauty. Alas yong Gentleman, so much he witcht by the wilkinesse of a woman! had hee dained my heart to be a harbour for euery new desire, or mine eye a suter to euery face, hee wold not haue bene so fond as to haue brought his companions into my company, but rather wold haue metwed me vp as a Hen, to haue kept that seuerall to himselfe by force, which hee could not retain by kindnesse: but the honest minded Souice little suspected my change, although I (God wot) placed my delight in nothing moze then y desire of new choyce, which fell out thus.

Amongst

Tincenes falling out.

Amongst the rest of the Gentlemen that kept him company, there was one that was his most familiar, and hee reposed more trust and confidence in him then in all the rest: this Gentleman began to be deeply enamored of mee, and shewed it by many signes, which I easily perceived; and I, whose eare was pliant to euery sweet word, and whose allowance of all that were beautiful, affected him no lesse: so that loue preuailling aboue friendship, hee brake the matter with me, and made not many suites in vaine before he had obtained his purpose: for he had what he wisht, and I had what contented me. I will not confesse that any of the rest had some sildome fauours, but this Gentleman was my second selfe, and I loved him more for the time at the heale, then the other at the heart: so that though the other youth bare the charges, and was sir pay for all, yet this new friend was he that was maister of my affections: which kindnesse betwixt vs, was so bruttishly cloaked, that in short time it was manifest to all our familiars, which made my supposed husband to sigh, and others to smile: but he that was hit with the home, was pincht at the heart; yet so extreme was the affection he bare to me, that he had rather conceal his griefe, then any way make me discontent, so that he smothered his sorrow with patience, and brake the iniurie with silence. As our loues grew so broad before, that it was a wonder to the world: whereupon one day at dinner, I being very pleasant with his chosen friend, and my choise loue, I know not how, but either by fortune, or if may be, some set match, there was by a Gentleman there present, a question proposed about womens passions, and their mutability in affection, so that the controuersie was defended, pro & contra, with arguments. Whether a woman might haue a second friend or no, at last it was concluded, that a one and a second shooke no fellowship, and therefore none for base minded men to beare animall. Whereupon arose a question about friends that were put in trust, how it was a high point of treason for one to betray another, especially in loue, inasmuch that

True men come by their goods.

One Gentleman at the boord, protested by a solemn oath, that if any friend of his, made priuy and fauoured with the sight of his Mistresse whom hee loued, whether it were his wife, or no, should secretly like to intrach into his tooome, and offer him that dishonour to partake his loue, hee would not vsie any other reuenge, but at the next greeting stab him with his poyname, though he were condemned to death for the action. All this fitted for the humor of my supposed husband, and strooke both me and my friend into a quandarie: but I scornfully tested at it, when as my husband, taking the ball before it came to the ground, began to make a long discourse what faithlesse friends they were that would faile in loue, especially where a resolved trust of the party beloved was committed vnto them: and hereupon, to make the matter moze credulous, and to quip me folly, and to taunt the basenesse of his friends minds, that so hee might with countesse both waerne vs of our wantonnesse, and reclaine vs from ill, he promised to tell a pleasant story performed as he said, not long since in England, and it was to this effect.

A pleasant discourse how a wise wanton by her Husbands gentle warning, became to bee a modest Matron.

There was a Gentleman (to giue him his due) an Equier here in England, that was married to a young Gentlewoman, faire, and of a modest behaviour. Vertuous in her behauiour, soe tender she was in her thoughts, and one that euer went with her dutifull endeavour, and outward appearance of honesty, so by all her husbands content, in so much that she was content to be soely affected her, as her own selfe shee thought it best, when hee past not away in her company, bestowing so himselfe in the beauty of his wife, that his onely care was to haue her euer way delighted. Lining thus pleasantly together, hee had one special friend amongst the rest, whom hee so secretly affected, as hee would tell all his secrets in his bosome, and what passion hee had in

Twoeues falling out,

his minde, that either ioyed him, or perplexed him, he reue-
led vnto his friend, and directed his actions according to the
sequell of his counsels, so that they were two bodies and one
soule. This Gentleman, for all the inward fauour shewne
him by his faithfull friend, could not so withstand the force
of fancy, but he grew enamoured of his friends wife, whom
hee courted with many sweete wordes, and faire promises,
charmes that are able to inchaunt almost the chastest eares,
and so subtilly couched his arguments, discouered such lone
in his eyes, and such sorrow in his looks, that despaire seem-
ed to sit in his face, and swoze, that if she granted not him,
the end of a lovers sighes then would present his heart as a
Tragicke sacrifice to the sight of his cruell mistresse. The
Gentlewoman wearing pittifull, as women are kind-hearted,
and are loth Gentlemen should die for loue, after a few excu-
ses, let him ouer her husband knight of the forbes order, and
so to satiffie his humour, made forget of her own honour. Thus
these two louers continued for a great space in such plea-
sures as bachelors wantons count their felicitie, hauing con-
tinually fit opportunity to exercise their twicked purpose,
sith the Gentleman himselfe did giue them free libertie to
loue, neither suspecting his wife, nor his friend: at last, as
such trayterous abuses will burst forth, it fell out, that a
maid, who had bene an old seruant in the house, beganne to
grow suspicious, that there was too much familiaritie be-
tweene her mistresse, and her maisters friend; and vpon this,
watcht them diuers times so narrowly, that at last she found
them more private then either agreed with her maisters ho-
nour, or her owne honesty: and thereupon reuealed it one day
vnto her maister. He, little credulous of the light behauiour
of his wife, blamed the maid, and hid her take heed, lest she
sought to blemish her vertues with slander, whom he valued
more tenderly then his owne life: the maid replied, that she
spake not of enuy to him, but of meere hate she bare vnto
him, and the rather that hee might shew such a fault in
time, and by some means prevent it, lest it should grow
note

True men come by their goods.

note it as well as she, his wives good name, and his friends should be cald in question. At these wise words spoken by so base a iudge as his maid, the Gentleman was astonished and listned to her discourse, wishing her to discover how she knew, or was so prying to y^e folly of her mistresse, or by what meanes he might haue assured proofe of it, she told him that to her, her owne eyes were witnessles: so she saw them unlawfully together, and please it you sit, quoth shee, to faine your selfe to goe from home, and then in the backe-house to keepe you secret, I will let you see as much as I haue manifested vnto you. Upon this the maister agreed, and warned his maid not so much as to make it knowne to any of her fellowes. Within a day or two after the Gentleman said he would go a hunting, and so rised very early, and causing his men to couple by his hounds, left his wife a bed, and went abroad: as soone as her was gone a mile from the house, hee commanded his men to ride afoze, and to start the hare, and follo the chase, and wee will come saife and softly after: they obeying their maisters charge, went their waies, and he returned by a backe way to his house, and went secretly to the place where his maid and hee had appointed. In the meane time the mistresse thinking her husband safe with his hounds, sent for her friend to her bed-chamber, by a trusty servant of hers, in whom shee assured that was a secret pander in such affaires, and the Gentleman was not slacke to come, but making all the haste he could, came and went into the chamber, asking for the maister of the house very familiarly: the old maid noting all this, as soone as shee knew them together, went and cald her maister, and carried him by by a secret paire of staires to her mistresse chamber door, where, peeping in at a place that the maid before had made for the purpose, he saw more then he loht for, and so much as pinch him at the very heart, causing him to accuse his wife for a strumpet, and his friend for a traytor: yet for all this, valuing his owne honor more then their dishonesty, thinking if he should make an error, hee should but aime

at his owne discret, and cause him selfe to be a laughing
game to his enemies, he concealed his sorrow with silence,
and taking the maide apart, charged her to keepe all secret,
whatsoever she had seene, euen as she esteemed of her owne
life, for if she did betwray it to any, hee himselfe would with
his sword make an end of her dayes, & with that putting his
hand in his side, gaue the poore maide six Angells to buy her
a new gowne: she wench glay of this gift, swore solemnly
to treade it vnder foot, and sith it pleased him to conceale it,
 neuer to reueale it so long as she liued: vpon this they par-
ted, she to her doudgery, & he to the field to his men: where,
after he had killd the Dane, hee returned home, & finding his
 friend in a garden, & in his absence had been grafting honyes
 in the chymnies, & entertaines him with his wonted famili-
arity, and they two no bad countenance to his wife, but dis-
 sembles all his thoughts to the full. As sone as dinner was
 done, and that he was gotten solitary by himselfe, he began
 to deuise of reuenge, but not as euery man would haue
 done, how to haue brought his wife to shame, & lone to con-
 fusion, but he busied his braines how he might reforme his ho-
 nor, inuoluntarily, & claime his wife, & keep his name, inuoluntarily
 a long time how he might bring all this to passe, at last a hu-
 mor fell into his head, how cunningly to compass all these,
 & therefore he went & got him certaine slips, which are com-
 monly pieces of money, being dyall, & covered ouer with sil-
 uer, which the common people call slips: hauing furnished
 himselfe with these, he put them in his purse, & at night went
 to bed as he was wont to do, yet not vsing the kind familia-
 rity that he accustomed, notwithstanding he abstained not
 from a view of her body, but knew his wife as before times, &
 euery time he consulted shee as with her, he laid a new moy-
 ling in the window a slip, where he was sure she might
 find it, and so many times as it pleased him to be carnally
 pleasant to with his wife, so many slips he still laid down vpon
 her cushion: This he did for the space of a fortnight, till at
 last his wife finding euery day a slip, & sometimes more or
 lesse,

True men come by their goods.

Isle, wondering how they came there, & examining her waiting maids, none of them would tell her any thing touching them, whereupon she thought to question with her husband about it, but being out of her remembrance, & next morning as she lay dallying in bed, it came into her minde, & she asked her husband if he laid those slips on her cabinet, that she of late found there, having neuer seen any before. I may say I, quoth he, & haue laid them there vpon speciall reason, and it is this: Ever since I haue ben married to thee, I haue deemed thee honest, & therefore blessed & honored thee as my wife, parting no quall sinners betwixt vs as true louers: but a late finding the contrary, and looke these considering the place the whooze with my friend, in whom I did repose all my trust, I sought not as many would haue done, to haue reuenged in blood, but for the safety of mine own honor, which otherwise would haue bene blemished by thy dishonesty, I haue bene silent, and haue neuer wronged my quondam friend, nor abused thee, but will bee holden betwixt thee, that I would shall not suspect any thing, & to quench the desire of lust I do be the body, but not so lovingly as I would a wife, but carelessly as I would a strumpet, and therefore euen as to a whooze, so I giue thee hire, which is for euery time a day, a counterfeitt coine, which is good enough for such a slippery wanton, & will becomyng her husband that loues her so tenderly, & thus will I vse thee for the safety of mine owne honor, till I haue assured proofe that thou becomest honest: & thus with teares in his eyes, and his heart ready to burst with sighes, he was silent; when his wife stricken with remorse of conscience, leaping out of her bed in her smocke, humbly confessing all, craved pardon, promising if he should pardon this offence which was now begun in her, she would become anew reformed woman, & neuer after so much as in thought giue him any occasion of suspicion or jealousy: the patient husband not willing to dege his wife, took her at her word, & told her & when he found her so reclaimed, he would as afore he had done, vse her lovingly & as his wife, but till he was so perswaded.

Theeues falling out, 1011

persuaded of her honesty, he would pay her still slips for his pleasure, charging her not to reueale any thing to his friends or to make it knowne to him: that hee was prync to their loues. Thus the debate ended, I gesse in some kinde greeting, and the Gentleman went abrode to see his pastures, leaving his wife in bed full of sorrow, and almost centing her heart alunder with sighes. As soone as hee was walked abrode, the Gentleman his friend came to the house, and asked for the good man: the pander that was prync to all their practises, said that his maister was gone abrode to see his pastures, but his mistresse was in bed: why then sayes he, I will go and raise her vp; so comming into the chamber, and kissing her, meaning as hee was wont to haue vsed her accustomed dalliance, she desired him to abstaine with broken sighes, and her eyes full of teares: he wondering what should make her thus discontent, asked her what was the cause of her sorrow, protesting with a solemne oath, that if any had done her injury, he would reuenge it, were it with hazard of his life: shee then told him, scarce being able to speake for weeping, that shee had a sute to moue him in, which if hee granted vnto her, she would hold him in loue and affection without change, next her husband for euer: hee promised to doe whatsoever it were: then saies she, I sweare vpon a Bible you will do it without exception: with that he toke a Bible that lay in the window, and sware, that whatsoever shee requested him to doe, were it to the losse of his life, he would, without exception performe it. When shee holding downe her head and blushing, began thus: I neede not quoth shee, make manifest howe grosse and grieuously you and I haue both offended God, and wronged the honest gentleman my husband, and your friend; hee putting a speciall trust in vs both, and assuring such earnest affiance in your vnfained friendship, that hee even committeth me his wife, his loue, his second life, into your bosome: this loue haue I requited with constancie, in playing the harlot: that faith that hee reposed in you, haue you returned with treachery & falsehood,

True men come by their goods.

in abusing mine honesty & his honor. Now a remembrance of conscience toucheth me for my sins, that I heartily repent, and now ever hereafter to live only to my husband: & therefore my sute is to you, that from henceforth you shall neuer so much as motion any dishonest question vnto me, nor seeke any vnlawfull pleasure or conuersing at my hands: this is my sute, & hereunto I haue sworne you, which oath if you obserue as a faithfull gentleman, I will conceale from my husband what is past, and rest in honest sort your faithfull friend for ever, at this she burst a teare into teares, & uttered such sighes, that he thought for very griefe her heart would haue laye asunder. The gentleman assented at this strange Periphrasis of his misdeede, sate a good while in a maze, and at last taking her by the hand, made this reply: So God helpe mee faire sweetest, I am gladd of this motion, & wonderful joyfull that God hath put such honest thoughts into your minde, & hath made you the meane to reclaim me from my folly: I feele no lesse remorse then you do in wronging so honest a friend as your husband, but this shall neede of man, & therefore to make amends, I protest a new, neuer hereafter so much as in thought, to motion you of dishonesty, only I craue you be silent: the promises that, and so they ended, and so that time they parted. At home the Gentleman came home, & cheerfully saluted his wife, & asked if dinner were ready, & sent for his friend, bring him wonderfully familiarly, giving him no occasion of mistrust, & so pleasantly they passed away the day together. At night when he was and he went to bed, he told him all what had past betwixt her & his friend, & how she had bound him with an oath, and that he voluntarily of himselfe swore as much, being heartily sorry that he had so deeply offended so honest a friend. The Gentleman commended her wit, & found her afterwards a reclaimed woman, she living so honestly that she neuer gave him any occasion of mistrust. Thus the wife Gentleman reclaimed both silence a waite on wife, and retained an assured friend.

Theeves falling out, 110

At this pleasant tale all the heard hung at attention, and they
 said the gentleman did passing wisely & wrought so coming
 ly for the safety of his owne honoz, but exclaiming against
 such a friend as would to his friend offer such villany, al con-
 demning her & would be false to so louing a husband. When
 they did thusly descant & past away dinner; but this tale
 wrought little effect in me: for as one past grace, I delighted
 in change, but the gentleman's was his humour, & my Pa-
 ramour, was so touched, & neuer after he would touch mee
 dishonestly, but reclaimed himselfe, abstained from me, & be-
 came true to his friend. I wondering, that according to his
 requested custome, he did not seke my company, he & I being
 one way in the chamber alone, & he in his dumps, I began to
 dally with him, & to aske him why he was so strange, & used
 not his accustomed favours to me: hee solemnly made
 answer, that though he had plain the stile in setting his fan-
 cy upon anothers mans wife, & in vsurping his friends; yet
 his conscience was not touched with crime, & since
 he heard the tale of these cheaters, he had vowed in himselfe
 not to do my husband the like wrong againe. My husband
 quoth I, hee is none of mine, hee hath brought me from my
 friends: & hence we here separated, and therefore am I as free
 for you as for him: and thus began to go to chambers, be-
 cause I was weary of my lust. The gentleman seeing mee
 thusly, desired me to be silent, and said, although you be
 but his friend, yet hee doth you as wrong as his wife, & there-
 fore I will not abuse him, neither to talke I with you to be
 wile with any other, seeing you haue a friend that loues
 you so kindly: much good counsell hee gaue mee, but all in
 vain, for I scorned it: & began to hate him, and refused to
 be true to him, & my supposed husband, for so hee
 was called of my husband, & hee sought him with such
 words, that I could him to take a piece of money to walke
 with mee, & away me to Holland, where I had not lived
 long with him, nor hadding my light behauiour, lest me to
 wide knowledge, and to shift for my selfe.

110

True men come by their goods.

I now being brought to London, and left here at random, was not such a house-dove while any friend staid with me, but that I had visite some houses in London, that could harbour as honest a woman as my selfe; when as therefore I was left to my selfe, I remoued my lodging, & gat me into one of those houses of good hospitality whereunto persons resort, commonly called a Tugging-house, or to be plaine, a Whore-house, where I gaue my selfe to entertaine all companions, sitting or standing at the doore like a fraule, to admit or deny in wanton passengers, refusing none I would with his purse purchase me to be his, to satisfie the disorderly desire of his filthy lustfull I began not to respect personage, good qualities, to the gracious fauour of the man; when eis had no respect of person, for I oldest lecher was as welcom as I yongest louer, so he brought meat in his mouth. Thus to the griefe of my friends, hazard of my soule, & consuming of my body, I spent a yeare or two, in this base and bad kind of life, subiect to I whistle of euery desperate Ruffian, till on a time, there resorted to our house a Cloathier, a proper yong man, who by fortune coming first to myne, saying me asked me if I would drinke with him, there needed no great entreaty, for as then I wanted company, & so clapt me downe by him, & began very pleasantly to loue him, I man being of himselfe modest and honest, noted my personage, & iudicially reasoned of my trumpet-like behaviour, and inwardly, as after hee reported unto me, grieved that his soule properties were hidden in so good a proposition, and I such rare wit & excellent beauty was thus hid in whoredomes base deformity, in so much I began to thinke well of me, & to wish I were as honest as I was beautiful. Again, see how God wrought for my conversion, since I gaue my selfe to my lewde kind of life, I neuer liked any so well as him, in so much I began to iudge of euery part; & me thought he was I properest man I euer saw, thus was late both amorous of other, I lastingly & honestly, at last he questioned with me what country woman I was, & why being

being so proper & so comely I would becom to dwell by him in
a house his owne, especially in case I had a bad name: I re-
minded you I wanted no humanity except to do him, for I told
him the house was as honest as his mothers, nay if there
were in it a new twenty or three, that would pleasure their
friends. I told him by his name what passage he to-
med, & that he was none such, well, saying me in I hope he
was little, but shook his head, said for the better I want his
long, only taking his leave of me with a kisse, which me
thought was the sweetest that ever was given me, all one as
he was gone, I began to thinke what a handsome man he
was, & thought he would come & take a nights lodging to me,
sitting in a durance to thinke of & enaimes of his personage,
till other companions came in, I thart me out of I melan-
choly, but allones againe as I was lected to my selfe, he
came into my remembrance, pulling over thus a day or two
his Chamber came againe to our house, to whose sight we
went to, for that spring him out at a Callement, I came
before the staires & met him at I hope, & heartily welcomed
him, & asked him if he would come, I could for I purpose,
but he, but I will a jure he would becom but in a Chamber,
but he, quoth I, you shall, & so I brought him into I heart
dances, in their sitting down together drinking, at last I
told him of killing & other villance, wherein he found me
not say, at last told me I he would willingly have his plea-
sure of me, but I came told me he would, he of all things in
I would becom me in his owne house, & a large Cham-
ber, I continued with him, I brought him into a chamber
dark, but when he saw it was the light, then I carried him into
a further place, where was a large Chamber, where I was
told, & closing I continued of I was, I asked him whether it
was the enough, he said I was, but he, I continued to me
he would becom me, I continued, then he said, I would becom
me, my heart was full, & my service to my life, Good to
be thou hadst not come to me, I said to him, I would becom
quoth I, I would becom me, & with that I brought him into a
last

True men come by their goods.

last, to him that is a little sea, only appointed to lodge suspi-
tious persons, so dark that at none daies it was impossible
for any man to see his stone hands: how now sir, quoth I,
is not this dark enough? He sitting him downe on the bed
dive, fetcht a deepe sigh, and sayd, indifferent, se, se, but there
is a glimpse of light in all this, some body is by fortune
like us: in faith no, quoth I, none but God. And, sayes hee:
why can God see us here? God sir, quoth I, why I hope
you are not so simple, but Gods eyes are so cleare and pene-
trating, that they can pierce through walles of brass. And
alas, quoth he, what looke, if God see us shall we not be more
ashamed to do such a filthy act before him then before men?
I am sure thou art not so shamelesse but thou wouldst blush
to haue the meanest companion in London see thee in the
action of thy filthy lust; & dost thou not shame more to see
God, the maker of all things see thee who teares out
with death, he whose eyes are cleare then the sunne, who is
the searcher of the heart, and whose vengeance in his hand
to punish sinners? Oh let me trouble thee but once more
haue such wicked communication in the hearing of his di-
vine presence, who piously and earnestly hath made for such as give
themselves out to be chaste. It is not possible but that I see
for my wickedness; as discipline is wont to, to enter into the
kingdome of God, for such sins whole Citties have sunk,
kingdomes have bene destroyed, & though God suffer such
wicked sinners to escape for a while, yet at length he payeth
home, in this world in beggary, shame, diseases, & tribulation;
& in the other life, to perpetual damnation; I weigh but the
inconuenience that groweth through thy loose life, God is the
father of all that are good; helper of the righteous; and quite
well thought of, of Reprobates, Kascals, & usurers, & such
as the world hates, seduced to the devil, and gaining thy li-
ving at the hands of every diseased leacher. What a mis-
erable trade of life is thine, that liuest of the vomit of sin, in
hunting after malabes: but suppose, while thou art young,
thou art saucours of thy companions; when thou wast

